

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00677 250902Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 /001 W
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O R 250817Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8929
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T SEOUL 0677

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

TOKYO FOR AMBASSADOR SNEIDER ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV KS US
SUBJ: ROKG CONCERN OVER CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS

REF: STATE 19293

1. CHARGE ACCOMPANIED BY POL COUNSELOR CALLED ON FONMIN AFTERNOON JAN 25 TO PROVIDE BRIEFING ON CONTENTS REFTEL. HE NOTED SPEAKER WAS GRATIFIED WITH PROGRESS TO DATE AND HOPED TO CALM DOWN ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL. CHARGE SAID WE DID NOT EXPECT ANY ACTION ON THE RESOLUTION IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HE AGAIN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ROK WOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE PATIENCE ON THIS MATTER AND CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE MATTER. HE SAID THAT THE RETURN OF AMBASSADOR KIM TO WASHINGTON AT THE EARLIEST DATE AND A FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE SPEAKER SHOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

2. FONMIN WAS APPRECIATIVE OF THE INFORMATION RECEIVED AND AGAIN EXPRESSED BASIC POSITION OF ROKG AS ONE OF COOPERATION WITH THE US. HE NOTED HOWEVER THAT HE
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UNDERSTOOD A RESOLUTION SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE HOUSE HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE BY SENATOR WEICKER. HE AGAIN SAID THAT DIRECT PUBLIC PRESSURE IN THE US MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO TAKE INITIATIVE ON POSITIVE STEPS TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER. WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE FOR STATEMENTS IN THE US, HE URGED GREATER CONSIDERATION OF FOREIGN RELATIONS

IMPACT OF SUCH STATEMENTS.

3. CHARGE NOTED ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS OVER RECENT DAYS TO EMPHASIZE POSITIVE AND ENDURING ASPECTS OF US-ROK RELATIONSHIP. HE AGAIN ADVOCATED CONCENTRATION ON THE POSITIVE AND RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF THE ROKG.

4. FONMIN SAID THAT THIS WAS HIS BASIC POSITION AS WELL. HE SAID AMB KIM WOULD DEPART SEOUL ON SATURDAY, JAN 28 AND WOULD BE ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON AROUND TUESDAY, JAN 31.

5. COMMENT: FONMIN INDICATED HE HAD REFUSED TO RESPOND TO PRESS REQUESTS FOR REACTION TO WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENTS, (ALTHOUGH LOWER RANKING OFFICIAL DID COMMENT). BELIEVE HE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS LINE UNLESS PRESSURE IS INCREASED FROM OUR SIDE.
STERN

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